



A Tool for Studying Scientists and Engineers in the United States

Division of Science Resources Studies
Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences



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GLOSSARY

The following terms are used extensively in the document. While some of the definitions are standard, others are specific to the SESTAT system.

***Employed:** Includes those who did any work for pay or profit during the survey reference week.

***Unemployed:** Includes those who did not have a job during the survey reference week, but had actively looked for work in the prior four weeks.

***Labor force:** Includes those who are employed or unemployed.

***Not in labor force:** Includes those who had no job during the survey reference week and were not looking for one (e.g. they may be retired, etc.)

Highest degree type: Level of highest degree received: bachelor's, master's, doctorate or professional.

Highest degree field: Field of study of highest degree. If an individual has two or more degrees at the same highest degree level, the highest degree field will be that of the most recent degree earned.

Science and Engineering (S&E): The National Science Foundation has developed a unique definition of S&E. Very broadly, educational fields considered to be S&E include computer and mathematical sciences, life sciences, physical sciences, social sciences and engineering. Occupational categories considered to be S&E include computer and mathematical scientists, life scientists, physical scientists, social scientists and engineers. All other educational fields and occupational categories are considered non-S&E by NSF. A more detailed definition of S&E and non-S&E educational fields and occupational categories can be found in Appendix Table 1.

Educated in S&E: Includes those who have earned at least one degree (at the bachelor's level or higher) in a science or engineering field.

Working in S&E: Includes those who were working in a science or engineering occupation during the survey reference week, regardless of education.

*These definitions are based on those used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For further information, see http://stats.bls.gov:80/cps_faq.htm .